GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:639
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE POLICY FOR HIMALAYAN REGION
Chakrabortty Shri Swadesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes an ecologically sustainable policy for Himalayan region;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) The benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) &(b) Gobind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED), an autonomous institute of Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), with headquarters at Almora, Uttrakhand and four regional units at Kullu (Himachal Pradesh),Srinagar-Garwal (Uttrakhand), Pangthang (Sikkim) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) is acknowledged as a focal agency, to advance scientific knowledge, to evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources and to ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).In addition, a National Mission for sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem has been set up under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

(c) As a result of the work of the GBPIHED the benefits interalia include restoration and rehabilitation Packages for degraded lands, watershed management, water resource development, impact assessment and mitigation plans for hydropower projects, solid waste management, mountain risk engineering ,disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and capacity building .